

Innovative practice 2017 on employment, work, and vocational education and training: 2046

TITLE

Vocational training and meaningful jobs for persons who are blind or visually impaired

Viet Nam: Nhat Hong Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired – Career Training Programme

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Nhat Hong Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired trains its students so as to enable them to join the open labour force as well as the supported labour markets in Ho Chi Minh City. The centre's career training programme creates a personalized career plan for each individual, thereby not only supporting their job seeking process but also basing it on their personal interests and skills.

FACTS & FIGURES

From 2014 to 2016, the Nhat Hong Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired has:

- Provided vocational training for 142 persons with disabilities
- Helped 81 persons with disabilities to obtain jobs in the open labour market and supported labour market, 60 of whom work full-time and 21 work part-time (19 trainees are currently seeking employment and 42 are still in training)

PROBLEMS TARGETED

If people with vision impairments in Viet Nam find jobs at all, they are most often low-profile jobs without the potential of developing a career.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

The Nhat Hong Centre is working with the blind and visually impaired to train and educate them in skills such as agriculture, crafts, music and dance, food and drink service, ICT and office work, translation, teaching and caring, business, and domestic economy. A vocational counsellor, who helps students to choose a career and to prepare for its required qualifications, meets with the students at the centre on a regular basis. The counsellor also works out an individual transition plan to help each student to be as prepared as possible to enter the labour market upon graduation.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The vocational training programme has a total cost of about US\$75,000 per year. Overall sales of products and services generate US\$30,000 per year, which covers 40 per cent of the programme budget. The difference is paid for by supportive NGOs, such as CBM and ICEVI. In addition, the programme receives support from some of its alumni.

QUOTE

“A blind music teacher has difficulties checking the fingers of the students, but I can make my hands be my eyes to teach keyboard playing very well.”

— Ms. Sa Nguyen, a blind music teacher at the Nhat Hong Centre

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